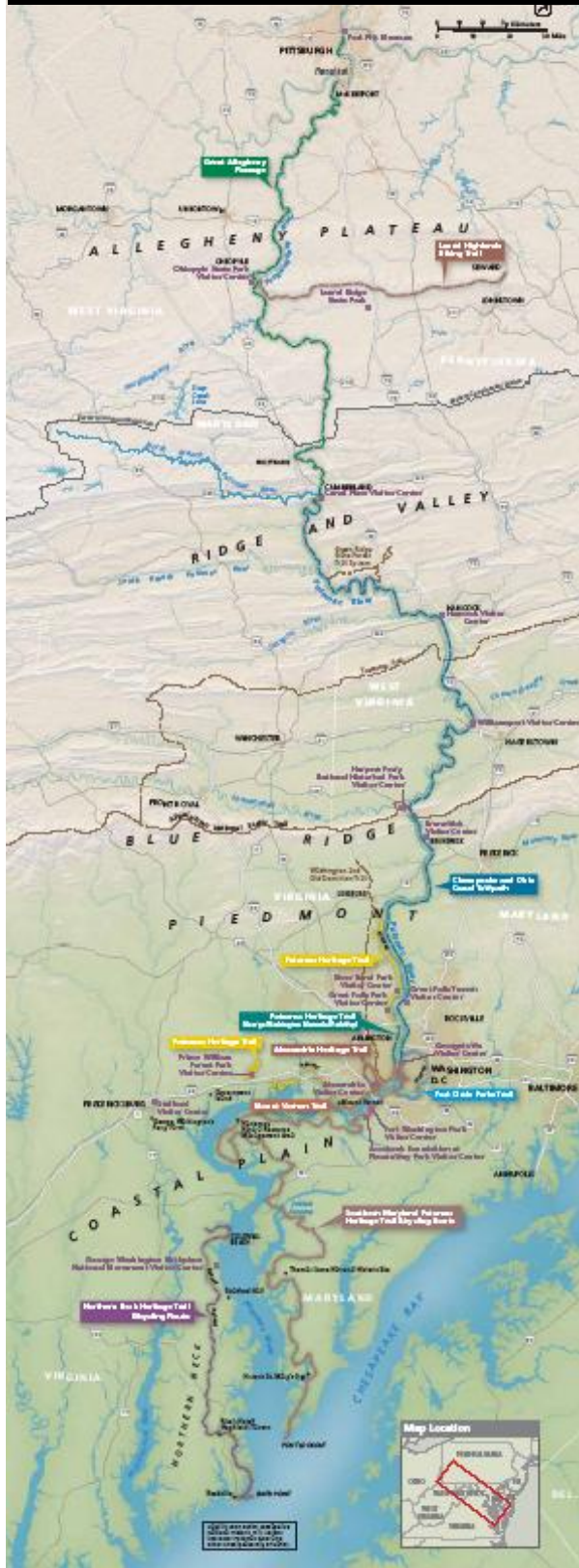




# Fiscal Year 2011 Activities Report (draft)

Experience the Corridor of Commerce  
First Imagined by George Washington



A review of the past year reflects the diversity of the Trail network as well as the variety of Trail Office roles and partnerships; following are some highlights:

- publications to illustrate the Piedmont portion of the Trail corridor in Northern Virginia, the southern Maryland on-road bicycling route, and the Northern Neck Heritage Trail;
- publication ([on-line](#)) of a *Foundation for Planning, Administration, Management and Interpretation of Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Segments and for Coordination among Trail Segment Management Partners*
- successful application, in partnership with the Allegheny Trail Alliance, of a grant from the [National Park Foundation](#) to commemorate the significance of the Mason-Dixon Line;
- assistance to an *ad hoc* Trail marketing committee to revise and expand [Potomac Heritage Explorer](#);
- co-sponsorship of the [Maryland Trails Summit](#);
- completion, by the Northern Virginia Regional Commission with assistance from the National Park Service, of a [Northern Virginia Trail corridor analysis](#), including a set of cost estimates to eliminate gaps in the Trail network; and organization of a workshop focusing on steps necessary to eliminate gaps in the Trail network between Mount Vernon and Locust Shade Park—the [Washington Smart Growth Alliance](#) recognized this task as one of the region's conservation priorities;
- execution of an agreement with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to consider Trail planning needs, by planning region, that could be incorporated into the next edition of the *Virginia Outdoors Plan*;
- participated in meetings to discuss potential Trail alignments within U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir;
- assistance to the Northern Neck Tourism Commission and the regional planning commission with installation of on-road route signs for the Trail through-route on the [Northern Neck](#); and
- execution of an agreement with the American Hiking Society to assist with planning for a [Civil War Defenses of Washington](#) Trail.

In addition to the assistance provided by Ursula Lemanski in the River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, we have enlisted Elizabeth Kerwin-Nisbet, an interpretive media specialist at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, to work part-time on Trail projects.

## Some Notable Projects by Trail Partners



New bridge for the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail over the PA Turnpike. Photo by Mike Mumau/PDCNR.



Dedication of a section of the Great Allegheny Passage. Photo courtesy of Allegheny Trail Alliance.

Trail segments are managed by many different agencies and organizations. The following, though not comprehensive, indicates the substantial roles of and investments by Trail segment managers and volunteers over the past year, an indication of the value of trails to local quality of life and regional economies.

### Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail:

- Pennsylvania agencies have redesigned and are re-constructing the bridge over the Pennsylvania Turnpike
- water pumps along the Trail have been restored to use; see [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/laurelridge.aspx](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/laurelridge.aspx).

### Great Allegheny Passage (Cumberland – Pittsburgh):

- The Allegheny Trail Alliance (ATA) and trail advocates in mid-June dedicated a new three-mile, \$6 million section of the GAP—including two bridges over active railroad lines--between Grant Avenue in Duquesne and The Waterfront. Which means **only one more mile** to complete the 150-mile trail. Visit [www.atatrail.org](http://www.atatrail.org) and click on *Trail News*.
- ATA received an \$8,000 grant from the [National Park Foundation](#) for an interpretive installation at the Mason Dixon Line. More info: [Sandra Finley](#) or [Don Briggs](#).
- The [Great Allegheny Passage Sustainable Business Network](#) continues to expand.

### Continental Divide Loop Trail (Garrett County, MD, planned to connect with the GAP):

[Garrett Trails](#), in the past year:

- completed a 4.4-mile trail loop in the Fork Run Recreation Area;
- received Recreational Trails Program funds from the Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources for the Meadow Mountain Trail; and
- hired a trail manager.

### Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Towpath:

- The [National Park Service](#) began repairs to the Towpath at Big Slackwater, a project to eliminate the only gap in the Towpath—now requiring a 5-mile detour—with completion expected in spring.
- The [C & O Canal Trust](#) has expanded the popular “Canal Quarters” program; initiated “Canal Discoveries,” a program to explore the resources of the Park; and assists the Canal Towns Partnership.





A section of the PHT in Edward's Landing Park. NPS photo.

### Northern Virginia:

- As part of an Eagle Scout project, Brett Whitney re-blazed and cleared a portion of the PHT in Edwards Landing Park; the National Park Service purchased and the Leesburg Parks and Recreation Department installed an orientation exhibit; and volunteers with the Potomac Heritage Trail Association assessed the connections between various parks and easements in the area.
- Potomac Heritage Trail Association (PHTA) and Eastern Mountain Sports volunteers completed phase one of the Sugarland Run Trail to eventually connect a Trail segment within Algonkian Regional Park to the W&OD Trail in Herndon.
- Countryside HOA continued constructing a trail network within Horsepen Run Preserve, which connects with the PHT in Algonkian Regional Park; more info: [Glenn Gillis](#) & [Mark Novak](#).
- Great Falls Trail Blazers and Fairfax County Park Authority renovated trails within Riverbend Park and added trailside amenities.
- Staff and volunteers constructed a new trail within Meadowood Special Management Area, a potential segment of the Trail network and an action included in the Area management plan.
- The Trail network continues to expand in Prince William County with news of [volunteer trail construction](#) projects by [Prince William Trails and Streams](#), [PHTA](#), [REI](#) and [Potomac Appalachian Trail Club](#) within the Julie J. Metz Wetlands Bank, Locust Shade Park and Powell's Landing, as well as the potential for a boardwalk across [Neabsco Creek](#) within the Woodbridge Magisterial District.

### Stafford and King George counties, Virginia:

- At an [event in November](#), Stafford County dedicated Government Island and a Trail segment that includes substantial interpretation of the site's significance in our national history.

### Northern Neck of Virginia:

- Through a cooperative agreement between the National Park Service and the Northern Neck Planning District Commission, Northern Neck Tourism Commission (NNTC) staff coordinated installation, with Virginia DOT and others, of PHT route signs along the through-bicycling route between Colonial Beach and Reedville. More information: [Lisa Hull](#), Executive Director, NNTC.



### **Southern Maryland:**

- The BLM-ES and volunteers completed construction of a trailhead at the north end of the Douglas Point Recreation Area.
- Prince Georges County Office of Transportation Planning executed a contract for a sign plan, a prerequisite to installation of PHT M1-8a signs between Oxon Cove Park and the southern boundary of the County.
- The Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park published an overview map delineating [the viewshed from Mount Vernon](#).

### **Some Numbers about the Trail Network**

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- 836 miles of trails and routes designated as segments of the Trail network (764 miles completed, 72 miles planned/gaps)
- Trail segments embrace portions of five physiographic provinces within 37 local government jurisdictions in four states, bridging two major watersheds over the Eastern Continental Divide.
- 420 miles of potential segments (gaps of various types) and extensive opportunities for water trail designations and experiences
- connecting with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail; three national historic trails; nine national recreation trails (including the Potomac River Water Trail); and 18 NPS areas and four National Natural Landmarks within the Trail corridor

### **More Trail Office Activities**

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#### **❖ Communications**

- distributed annual report and mid-year reports
  - responded to more than 90 requests for information about the Trail network
  - drafted article for Virginia Dept. of Conservation and Recreation newsletter
  - co-organized regional Northern Virginia meetings
  - participated in Trail promotion and coordination conference calls and edited newsletters
  - provided background information about the Trail network to the project manager for planning rehabilitation of the Governor Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge (U.S. Route 301)
  - reviewed Trail routes with members of the Long-distance Bicycle Route Subcommittee, Bicycle Pedestrian Committee, Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments
  - reviewed Trail concept at George Washington Regional Commission county administrators' meeting
  - discussion with members of the SCA Trail Town Corps
-

## Potomac Heritage Trail



A map created for use on trailhead orientation exhibits at Edward's Landing Park, Ball's Bluff Regional Park and Veterans Park at Ball's Bluff near Leesburg, Vir.

### ❖ Trail Projects

- edited NPS letter to Virginia DOT contractor re: pedestrian facilities and interpretive opportunities at intersection of a planned Trail segment, the Washington-Rochambeau NHT, Prince William Forest Park and the National Museum of the Marine Corps
- consulted on a Boy Scout project at Edwards Landing Park, Leesburg, Virginia
- considered proposals from staff of the U.S. Army for Trail segments on lands managed as U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir
- reviewed proposed scopes of work to obtain cost estimates to eliminate gaps in Northern Virginia
- contracted for an engineering scope of work and cost estimate to construct a Trail segment in the Broad Creek Historic District, Prince Georges County, Md.
- provided letter of support and related documentation for Wash Smart Growth Alliance nomination by the Potomac Heritage Trail Association for the Trail segment between Mount Vernon and Prince William Forest Park as a Regional Conservation Priority
- consulted on Lewis and Clark NHT Eastern Legacy feasibility study
- recognized formally the need for pedestrian/bicycling facilities between Anacostia Park and Oxon Cove Park
- participated in discussions to recognize more prominently the complex of resources within the Potomac Tobacco Historic District

## Explore Southern Maryland by Bicycle



This map is available in PDF at [www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/directions](http://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/directions).

### ❖ Interpretive Projects

- completed an exhibit plan for Edward's Landing Park and a map of Edwards Landing Park, Balls Bluff Regional Park and Veteran Park at Ball's Bluff; purchased trailhead kiosk and exhibit panel
- revised & published the popular *Northern Neck Heritage Trail Bicycling Route* brochure
- published brochure on the Government Island Trail, Stafford County, VA
- revised & published the Trail "unigrid" brochure
- based on verification by volunteers and local staff, revised list of locations to obtain the "Passport to Your National Parks" stamp for the Trail
- published Southern Maryland Potomac Heritage Trail Bicycling Route "rack card"
- published brochure on the Potomac Heritage Trail corridor in the Piedmont region of Virginia (see the map at [www.nps.gov/pohe/planyourvisit/maps.htm](http://www.nps.gov/pohe/planyourvisit/maps.htm))
- consulted with Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority on production of low-profile exhibits for Seneca properties
- provided FHWA with comments on preliminary designs and content for wayside exhibits within the [Woodlawn Historic Overlay District](#) (vicinity of Route 1/Mount Vernon Memorial Highway)
- edited content of [www.nps.gov/pohe](http://www.nps.gov/pohe)
- edited travel itineraries for publication on [Potomac Heritage Explorer](#)
- distributed map and production files of the middle Potomac River region, titled "Parks and Regional Trails," to agencies and organizations in the region
- edited text about the Trail for the Bureau of Land Management [National Landscape Conservation System Web site](#)
- consulted with Virginia DOT and Northern Neck Tourism Council on route marking
- reviewed tidal Potomac section of a draft edition of the NPS [Boaters' Guide to the Captain John Smith National Historic Trail](#)
- resubmitted request to Eastern National to produce and sell label pins and patches with the Trail logo

### ❖ Events

- Maryland Trails Summit
- Western Pennsylvania Trails Summit
- NPS Northeast & National Capital regions conference
- Washington Smart Growth Alliance public announcement of regional conservation priorities
- NPS National Capital Region Natural Resources Management conference
- "Eliminating the Gaps in the Potomac Heritage Trail between Mount Vernon and Locust Shade Park"
- Laurel Highlands Conservation Summit
- National Trails System conference (presentations available on the [Partnership for the National Trails](#) Web site)
- River, Rhythm and Ride (i.e., Northern Neck RiverRide)



## ❖ Administration

### Formal Agreements:

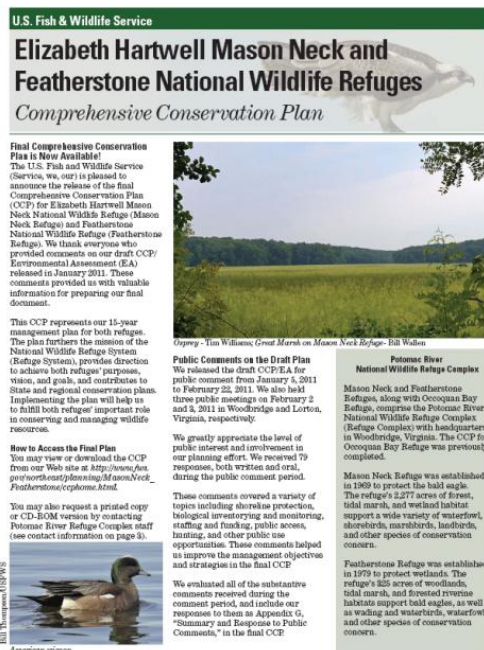
- executed cooperative agreement between Loudoun County Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Community Services & the NPS National Capital Region
- executed cooperative agreement between Pennsylvania Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources and & the NPS National Capital Region
- modified a task agreement with Student Conservation Association to extend an internship
- executed an agreement among the National Park Foundation, the Regional Trail Corporation (for the Allegheny Trail Alliance) & the Trail Office to complete an installation at the Mason-Dixon Line along the Great Allegheny Passage
- executed a task agreement to Virginia Dept. of Conservation and Recreation to assist with regional Trail planning
- executed task agreement to Loudoun County DPR&CS to obtain cost estimates for two hiking trail bridges
- reviewed draft memorandum of agreement between the NPS and the Army Corps of Engineers
- executed task agreement to American Hiking Society to assist with initial planning to complete environmental compliance for a Civil War Defenses of Washington trail in the District of Columbia

### Compliance Actions:

- reviewed cell tower proposal for a site in Loudoun County, Virginia
- reviewed and commented on the US Fish and Wildlife Service Comprehensive Conservation Plan/Draft EIS for Mason Neck and Featherstone national wildlife refuges
- consulted on a agency response regarding suspension of an EIS for PATH
- participated in initial scoping as a consulting party on Federal Highway Administration to study a wider Route 1 in the vicinity of U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir
- drafted *Federal Register* Notice announcing availability of a *Foundation for Planning*...
- submitted comments to the National Capital Planning Commission on a proposed security fence at U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir

### Miscellaneous:

- edited Trail Office project funding requests & reports on undelivered orders
- supervised RTCA Program Leader
- authorized Southern Maryland RC&D Board, Inc., to use Trail marker
- edited text for next edition of Maryland statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan
- edited statement of work and authorized obligation of funds to design and produce trailhead orientation exhibits for installation at seven locations along the C & O Canal Towpath
- completed mandatory training & Wildland Firefighter Type II re-certification
- participated in planning for Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail



- fulfilled data request to tracking items in the federal agencies' National Trails System Memorandum of Understanding
- participated in national work group to address the issue of national trails and rivers as "units" of the National Park System
- reviewed regional "Transportation Scholar" applications
- submitted request and forms to recruit a part-time Park Ranger (Interpretation)

## FISCAL YEAR 2011 BUDGET

<b>\$397,700</b>	<b>Operation of the National Park System (total approved funding)</b>
\$171,878	fixed costs (personnel, office, travel, supplies, etc.)
\$190,472	projects & project support
\$ 4,963	printing & reproduction
39%	ratio of NPS personnel costs/total ONPS funds
	<b>Connect Trails to Parks Program</b>
\$ 37,000	task agreement with American Hiking Society to initiate scoping for an environmental assessment to complete the Civil War Defenses of Washington Trail (administered by Rock Creek Park)
\$ 61,283	develop database for and inter-active map to the Trail network (RFP with the NPS Chesapeake Bay Program Office)

## 2012 DATES

2-3 November 2011	Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Workshop, National Conference Center, Leesburg, Virginia
February 2012	"Hike the Hill," Partnership for the National Trails System & American Hiking Society; see <a href="http://www.pnts.org">www.pnts.org</a>
2 June 2012	National Trails Day <a href="http://www.americanhiking.org/National-Trails-Day/Info">www.americanhiking.org/National-Trails-Day/Info</a>

## MORE INFORMATION

### Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Office

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Harpers Ferry WV 25425	304.535.4016
<a href="http://www.nps.gov/pohe">www.nps.gov/pohe</a>	

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17 October 2011